

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Regular Meeting
January 20, 2011
Newington Town Hall
5:30 P.M.

I. Roll Call

The following members were present: Chairman Bowen, Mrs. Conway, Mr. Bottalico, Mr. Marcinczyk, Mrs. Nasinnyk and Mr. Nagel.

Staff present: Town Planner, Edmund Meehan

II. Minutes

December 16, 2010 Regular Meeting – Mrs. Nasinnyk moved that the minutes be approved as presented, seconded by Mrs. Conway and approved. Mr. Bottalico and Mr. Nagel abstained, not present at December 16, 2010 meeting.

III. Public Participation

NONE

IV. New Business

A. Subcommittee Reports

- (i) Land Trust Organization – none
- (ii) Open Space Grants – none
- (iii) Open Space Properties

Mr. Bottalico asked about the recent farmland purchases in Wethersfield and what funding Sources were used to acquire land by the Town of Wethersfield.

Mrs. Conway asked the Committee to request the Town Council's support for additional appropriation to the Town Land Acquisition Fund account. The consensus of the Committee was to send a letter to Town Manager John Salomone requesting Town Council's funding consideration during its deliberations of the FY2011-2012 budget.

Chairman Bowen requested Ed Meehan to research Wethersfield's farmland purchase and what neighboring Towns are doing to fund open space acquisitions in this difficult fiscal period.

Chairman Bowen recommended that an advanced letter be sent to the Town Manager requesting appropriation to the Land Acquisition Account and that Committee bring this up when it makes its annual report presentation to the Town Council.

B. Draft 2010 Open Space Committee Report

Chairman Bowen requested Committee's comments on the draft #1 (1-14-11) Open Space Committee Report.

The members agreed that the Town Planner's would coordinate with the Town Manager and request that the Open Space Report be scheduled for Town Council, February 22 meeting.

A PowerPoint presentation will be prepared, draft to be for review by the Committee at its February 17th meeting.

The presentation to the Town Council will report the Committee's 2011 recommended strategies:

- 1) Protect Cedar Mountain Ridgeline Parcels
- 2) Promote "greenways" that protect natural resources of inland wetlands and flood hazard areas.
- 3) Protect existing vacant parcels between residential and non-residential land to create permanent buffers.

The presentation will include the Cedar Crest Hospital preserve map and vacant land/Open Space map.

The presentation will summarize what the Open Space Committee worked on in 2010, its request for appropriation to the Land Acquisition Fund, and its recommended 2011 strategies.

C. Cedar Mountain Open Space

There was a general discussion of the 12 acre Balf Company property that has frontage on Mountain Road and is adjacent to the 10 acre Cedar Crest Hospital preserve. Ed Meehan stated that this property is zoned for residential, 12,000 square foot single family lots. The presence of steep slopes along the easterly third of this property and a wetlands watercourse that bisects its south side would impact development lot yield.

Roy Zartarian reported that the Hartford Audubon Chapter is following the "Save Cedar Mountain" efforts and has an interest in protecting the endangered species that have been observed there. The Audubon members also serve on the local land trust and there is an opportunity among organizations that share common open space goals.

V. Old Business

Cedar Mountain Real Estate Executive Strategy

Mrs. Nasinnyk moved that the Committee go into executive session, seconded by Mrs. Conway and approved. The Executive Session began at 6:40 p.m. and ended at 7:30 p.m.

VI. Public Participation

NONE

VII. Remarks by Committee Members

NONE

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan
Town Planner

Town Clerk
Town Website